

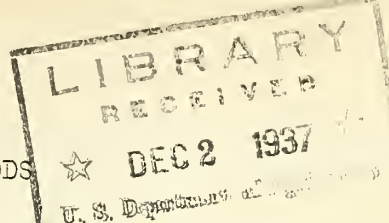
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FARMER IN THE WOODS



An interview between Morse Salisbury, U. S. Department of Agriculture and Fred Schoder of the Forest Service on the National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, October 29, 1937, broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company and a network of 70 associated radio stations.

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SALISBURY:

We have Fred Schoder of the Forest Service with us again today. Recently Fred reported how the Prairie States shelterbelt plantings on farms were doing. Today, he comes back with more reports about growing trees on farms. But these reports are from the more humid sections of the country where trees can themselves be grown as a crop. The Forest Service from its beginning has had the duty of spreading knowledge about how to manage farm woodlands. Naturally, it has received many reports of the experiences of individual farmers in managing their woods.

And today Fred is going to give us some of these reports to illustrate how men who set out to handle the woods as a crop have made it pay them. To begin, Fred, suppose you tell us how important farm woods are in our whole forest situation.

SCHODER:

Farm woodlands comprise about one-third of our total forest area and produce one-third of the total cut of timber of all kinds. The timber crop on farms is worth about a quarter of a billion dollars a year.

SALISBURY:

At that rate, farmers must be taking money out of their woodlands.

SCHODER:

A lot of them are. Getting down to cases, here's an example of how Herbert Warner up in New Haven County, Connecticut, handled 60 acres of timberland. Warner had 24 cows, so he needed a barn about 34 x 40 feet, with storage space for 70 tons of hay and other feed. His 60 acres of timber helped him build it.

SALISBURY:

Just a moment. Did he build the barn without a cash outlay?

SCHODER:

He used cash but he sold timber products to get the cash. Defective trees in the woodland furnished all the lumber for the framework and roof boards. He hired a portable saw mill to saw the logs on the farm and paid six and a half dollars a thousand board feet for the sawing, but beside the boards the sawing gave him a large number of laths which he sold them at a dollar and a half a thousand.

SALISBURY:

What about the big timbers?

SCHODER:

He hewed out two of the 40-foot carrying timbers by hand.

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SALISBURY:

What about the sheathing?

SCHODER:

I was going to tell you of that. At first, he didn't know how he was going to get the money but he went ahead and bought 5,000 feet of native hemlock at \$40 a thousand. Then he paid for it by selling birch wood from his timber lot for fireplaces - you know the cut logs that burn so beautifully in a fireplace. Then he discovered that the birch brush from the trees was valuable in making birch oil and he sold the birch brush for more money than the wood brought him. The brush paid for 2,100 man hours of labor on the barn.

SALISBURY:

This sounds like the stockyards idea of using everything except the squeal.

SCHODER:

I'll say so yes, but that's not quite all. Warner paid for 21 squares of shingles for his roof by selling odds and ends of oak timber which ran from 8 to 16 feet in length. He got \$45 a thousand board feet for that. Then he cut some witch hazel brush in the woods and sold that to pay for the matched flooring in the barn, the masonry material and the nails. He paid \$12 for a job lot of windows, and that completed the barn job.

SALISBURY:

How much woodland has he left?

SCHODER:

He still has all of it. He cuts several thousand feet of timber each year but he always leaves a good forest cover and a growth of new trees for future cuttings.

SALISBURY:

Is he finding any further uses?

SCHODER:

Right along. A few years ago, Warner happened to learn that hickory saplings of a certain size were necessary in puddling brass. Since then he's been selling hickory saplings. He also has a farm workshop equipped with power machinery and he makes stone boats, and sleds and other articles right on the farm.

SALISBURY:

Well, looks to me as though Mr. Warner has a one-man industry.

SCHODER:

That's right. Let me give you another story, this time about a Wisconsin farmer.

SALISBURY:

Did he build a barn too?

SCHODER:

No, this time it's building log cabins.

SALISBURY:

What's his name?

SCHODER:

Soren J. Uhrenholt of Sawyer County. He's been cropping his 70 acres of woodlands for 31 years. He had about 40,000 board feet of white and red pine, white spruce and balsam fir when he started farming.

SALISBURY:

And he's made money farming the woodland as well as the crop land.

SCHODER:

That's right. In 31 years he's sold 700 thousand board feet of sawlogs, for an average of \$500 cash each year. The largest season's cut was in 1929, when he worked over about four acres and took out around \$900 worth of choice red pine logs for log cabins. And Uhrenholt still has between 250 thousand and 300 thousand board feet of standing timber.

SALISBURY:

What about forest fires?

SCHODER:

In 1910, forest fires cleaned out nearly all of the timber around his farm but Uhrenholt's trees escaped with very slight damage because of the dense crown cover and an almost complete absence of underbrush.

SALISBURY:

And he never sold all his timber in a lump? A good many farmers sell their timber in a lump, don't they?

SCHODER:

Yes, and a good many make mistakes because they don't know what the timber is worth. Take for instance the experience of C. L. Glover, a farmer in Grant County, Arkansas, who was offered \$40 for all the timber over 12 inches in diameter on his 12-acre woodland. The offer was so low that he decided to work it himself. About the first sale he made was \$300 worth of high grade sawlogs. A little later he sold 22 cords of cotton gin wood at \$2.25 a cord that's 850 more. In the past 13 years he's cut 250 cords of fire wood for himself and his tenants, which he values at \$2.25 per cord. In addition he's cut sawlogs that turned out 20,000 board feet of pine lumber for barns, sheds, and tenant houses.

SALISBURY:

Is this timber growing on good land or on poor land?

SCHODER:

Well you know woodland is usually the poorest land on the farm, because trees will grow where almost everything else fails. The whole idea of farm forestry is to grow trees on land that is undesirable for crops or other purposes. I mean, there's no use letting poor land go to waste when trees can grow money on it. Rocks don't grow on hillsides.

SALISBURY:

I suppose you could go on telling about farmers in the woods indefinitely.

SCHODER:

Probably hundreds of them. Here is one from a farmer named Chambers, in Winston County, Alabama.



Chambers has 60 acres of woodland which he has cut carefully and almost continuously for the past 23 years. He says he wouldn't own his farm if it weren't for the timber. He's even used the income from the trees to help educate his children. He's sold \$2,150 worth of fuelwood, cross ties, hub timber, and the like. In addition, he's gotten fuelwood and other wood products for the farm from the timberlot.

SALISBURY:

Well, Fred, have you any general suggestions for making woodlands more profitable?

SCHODER:

There's a number of farmers bulletins about common sense forestry practices. But if they're estimating and marketing any timber this year, they'll want one bulletin in particular. That's Farmers Bulletin 1210, "Measuring and Marketing Farm Timber".

SALISBURY:

Have you a supply of it?

SCHODER:

Yes, we have a small supply that we can send in answer to requests.

SALISBURY:

All right then. If any of our Farm and Home listeners are marketing timber this year, write for Farmers Bulletin 1210, "Measuring and Marketing Farm Timber".

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